



03560.002135.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YOSHINOBU SHIRAIWA) Examiner: M. Wallerson
Application No.: 10/046,480) Group Art Unit: 2626
Filed: January 16, 2002)
For: IMAGE OUTPUT CONTROL APPARATUS) November 5, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

(1) U.S. Patent No. 4,768,099

The above-listed document was cited in a European Search Report, dated September 22, 2004 for a counterpart European application and may be relevant for the reasons cited therein. A copy of this Search Report is enclosed.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information

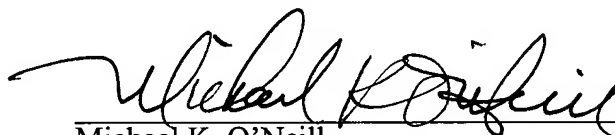
in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

The European Office Action lists six additional references (US 5,258,880, JP 08 21428, US 5,572,499, US 4,655,577, GB 2 286 944 and US 4,574,319) which are not enclosed or listed on the attached form PTO-1449 because they were cited and submitted in earlier filed Information Disclosure Statements dated January 16, 2002 and November 25, 2002.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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